



# NEWS RELEASE

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## ***Funding For Kansas Energy Efficiency Projects Announced By USDA Rural Development***

**Topeka, KS.** – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks congratulated two Kansas recipients selected for \$201,668 in Agency funding to support energy efficiency efforts in the State. Selection of the projects, approved under the USDA's *Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Program*, was announced by Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns in Sioux City, Iowa this week. This announcement was for the 'grant and guaranteed loan' portion of the program, the 'grant only' funding for Fiscal Year 2006 will be announced later.

While congratulating the Kansas projects receiving funding, State Director Banks commented, "USDA's *Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvement Program* provides Kansas farmers and ranchers, along with rural business owners, the opportunity to receive funding assistance to harness the untapped renewable energy resources and achieve greater energy efficiency. Establishing renewable energy opportunities and enhancing energy efficiency will also provide additional economic development opportunities for Kansas."

"One year ago today President Bush signed into law the Energy Policy Act, the most comprehensive overhaul of energy policy in over a decade that will help spur enhanced energy security and greater energy independence," said Johanns. "The renewable energy projects funded today are a step toward achieving that goal, promoting energy efficiency and the development of renewable farm based energy sources."

Speaking of the importance of the *Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvement Program*, State Director Banks added, "Enhancing our Nation's energy independence is a key goal of the Bush Administration. Expanding renewable energy systems offers an exciting economic opportunity for Kansas agriculture and our State's rural areas. Implementing the innovative energy policy proposed by the President can provide an excellent opportunity to strengthen both our national security and the Sunflower State's economy."

The two Kansas projects announced for funding follow:

**White's KingCo. Inc., Kingman, KS - \$97,668 (\$48,830 Energy Efficiency guaranteed loan and \$48,838 grant)** Agency funds will be used to make energy efficiency improvements to grocery stores located in Kingman and Phillipsburg. Improvements will consist of replacing refrigeration and lighting equipment with higher efficiency equipment. Agency funds will be complemented with an applicant contribution of \$97,687.

**Hayes Sight and Sound, Inc., Hutchinson, KS - \$52,000 (\$26,000 Energy Efficiency guaranteed loan and \$26,000 grant)** Agency funds will be used to make energy efficiency improvements to their furniture store. Improvements will consist of the replacement of an inefficient heating and cooling system and upgrading the lighting system with higher efficiency equipment. A USDA Rural Development Business and Industry guaranteed loan in the amount of \$52,000 will be used as supplemental funding for the energy efficiency improvements.

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USDA's *Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvement Program* provides grants and loan guarantees to eligible farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses to assist in developing renewable energy systems and making energy improvements. Eligible projects must be located in a rural area or communities with a population up to 50,000.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunity and improving the quality of life of the State's rural residents. The Agency provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. During Fiscal Year 2005, USDA Rural Development provided nearly \$235 million in direct funding for community and economic development projects across rural Kansas.

For additional information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, interested parties may call the Agency's state headquarters at 785-271-2700 or log onto the state's USDA Rural Development website at: [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks)

**USDA Rural Development – *Committed to the Future of Rural Communities.***

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